

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
SHREVEPORT DIVISION**

**DONZELL J. SAMUELS**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-2979-P**

**VERSUS**

**JUDGE FOOTE**

**CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
FOOD SERVICE**

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE HORNSBY**

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

In accordance with the standing order of this court, this matter was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge for review, report and recommendation.

**STATEMENT OF CLAIM**

Before the court is a civil rights complaint filed in forma pauperis by pro se plaintiff Donzell J. Samuels (“Plaintiff”), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This complaint was received and filed in this court on October 8, 2015. Plaintiff is currently incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Yazoo City, Michigan, but claims his civil rights were violated by prison officials while incarcerated at the Caddo Correctional Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He names the Caddo Parish Commission Food Service as defendant.

Plaintiff claims that on September 8, 2014, he was eating his fruit cocktail when a deputy discovered maggots in the food. He claims Commander Wyche stated that these issues occur from time to time because of the high volume of food. He claims his request to seek medical attention at no cost was granted after he filed a grievance in the

administrative remedy procedure.

As relief, Plaintiff seeks monetary compensation.

For the following reasons, Plaintiff's complaint should be dismissed with prejudice as frivolous.

### **LAW AND ANALYSIS**

Plaintiff filed this claim pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 of the Civil Rights Act which provides redress for persons "deprived of any rights, privileges or immunities" by a person acting under color of state law. The particular right protected under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in matters which concern alleged unconstitutional conditions of confinement is the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Under the Eighth Amendment, prison officials are required to provide humane conditions of confinement, ensuring that inmates receive adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical care, and must take reasonable measures to guarantee safety of inmates. See Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 114 S.Ct. 1970 (1994).

An Eighth Amendment claim has two required components. See Wilson v. Seiter, 501 U.S. 294, 298, 111 S.Ct. 2321, 2324 (1991). First, the deprivation alleged must be sufficiently serious. See id., 111 S. Ct. at 2324. "[O]nly those deprivations denying 'the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities' are sufficiently grave" to constitute cruel and unusual punishment. Id., 111 S. Ct. at 2324 (quoting Rhodes v. Chapman, 452 U.S. 337, 347, 101 S.Ct. 2392, 2399 (1981)). Furthermore, this court should consider the duration and the totality of the specific circumstances that constituted the conditions of Plaintiff's

confinement. Palmer v. Johnson, 193 F.3d 346 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999). Second, the prison official must have acted with a sufficiently culpable state of mind. See id. at 305, 111 S. Ct. at 2328; Farmer, 511 U.S. at 838, 114 S. Ct. at 1979. In prison condition of confinement cases, that state of mind is deliberate indifference, which the Supreme Court defined as knowing of and disregarding an excessive risk to inmate health or safety. See id., 114 S. Ct. at 1979.

After a thorough review of Plaintiff's complaint, read in a light most favorable to him, the court finds that the facts alleged do not support a finding that Defendant's conduct was sufficiently harmful enough to deprive him of life's basic necessities. See Wilson, 501 U.S. at 298, 111 S. Ct. at 2324. Plaintiff complains that, on one occasion, he found maggots in his fruit cocktail. Those facts do not support a finding that Defendant's conduct was sufficiently harmful enough to deprive him of life's basic necessities. See Wilson, 501 U.S. at 298, 111 S. Ct. at 2324. Thus, Plaintiff's claim has failed to satisfy the first requirement of an Eighth Amendment claim.

Furthermore, Plaintiff has not shown that Defendant's conduct was deliberately indifferent. There has been no allegation that Defendant disregarded an excessive risk to the Plaintiff's health or safety by failing to take reasonable measures to abate it. Farmer, 114 S.Ct. 1970.

## **CONCLUSION**

Because Plaintiff filed this proceeding in forma pauperis ("IFP"), if this court finds Plaintiff's complaint to be frivolous, it may dismiss the complaint as such at any time, before or after service of process, and before or after answers have been filed. See 28 U.S.C.

§ 1915(e); Green v. McKaskle, 788 F.2d 1116, 1119 (5th Cir. 1986); Spears v. McCotter, 766 F.2d 179, 181 (5th Cir. 1985). District courts are vested with extremely broad discretion in making a determination of whether an IFP proceeding is frivolous and may dismiss a claim as frivolous if the IFP complaint lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact. See Hicks v. Garner, 69 F.3d 22 (5th Cir. 1995); Booker v. Koonce, 2 F.3d 114 (5th Cir. 1993); Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 109 S.Ct. 1827 (1989).

Accordingly;

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff's civil rights complaint should be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e).

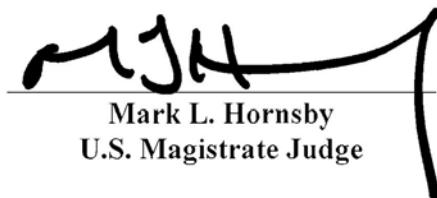
### **OBJECTIONS**

Under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), parties aggrieved by this recommendation have fourteen (14) days from service of this Report and Recommendation to file specific, written objections with the Clerk of Court, unless an extension of time is granted under Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(b). A party may respond to another party's objection within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy thereof. Counsel are directed to furnish a courtesy copy of any objections or responses to the District Judge at the time of filing.

A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions and recommendations set forth above, within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar that party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking, on appeal, the proposed factual findings and legal conclusions that were accepted by the district court and

that were not objected to by the aforementioned party. See Douglas v. U.S.A.A., 79 F.3d 1415 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).

**THUS DONE AND SIGNED**, in chambers, in Shreveport, Louisiana, on this 26th day of June 2014.



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "MLH". Below the signature, there is a horizontal line. Underneath this line, the name "Mark L. Hornsby" is printed in a standard font, followed by "U.S. Magistrate Judge" in a smaller font size.

Mark L. Hornsby  
U.S. Magistrate Judge